

READ OF THE STARK HORROR
TWO MEN FOUND IN A GAME OF
**CUTTING
CARDS!**



THIS STORY IS PROBABLY THE MOST *HORRIBLE*, *BLOOD-GURDLING* TALE YOU WILL *EVER* READ! IT CONCERNS *TWO PROFESSIONAL GAMBLERS*... *GUS FORNEY* AND *LOU GREBIS*! GAMBLERS... *BIG-TIME* GAMBLERS LIKE GUS AND LOU... ARE IN A CLASS BY THEMSELVES! GAMBLING IS THEIR *LIFE*! THE WAGER... THE BET... IS THEIR *BLOOD*! BUT GUS FORNEY AND LOU GREBIS *HATED* EACH OTHER... *HATED* EACH OTHER *LIKE POISON*...

THERE ISN'T ENOUGH *ROOM* IN THIS TOWN FOR *BOTH* OF US, LOU!

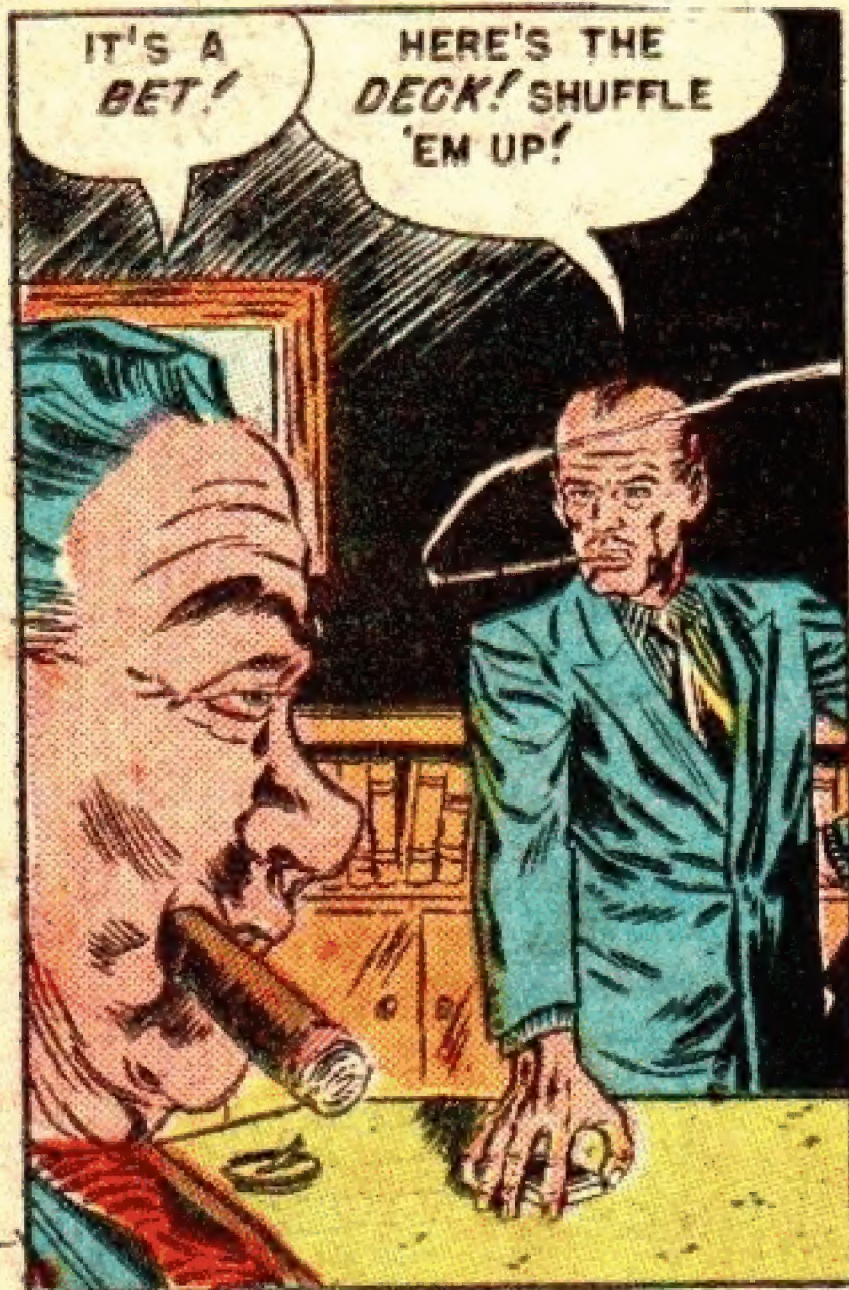
I'M NOT LEAVING, GUS! SO, *GOOD-BYE*... GET ON YOUR *HORSE*...



I MEAN THERE ISN'T ENOUGH ROOM IN THIS *WHOLE WORLD* FOR *BOTH* OF US, LOU! AND I'M WILLIN' TO *GAMBLE* TO SEE *WHO LEAVES IT*!

YOU'RE *BLUFFING*, GUS! OKAY! YOU'RE *ON*! SHALL WE *DRAW*? HIGH CARD *WINS*! THE *LOSER DIES*! THE *CHOICE OF METHOD* IS *HIS*!





IT'S A
BET!

HERE'S THE
DECK! SHUFFLE
'EM UP!

GUS SHUFFLED THE CARDS AND
SPREAD THEM OUT, FACE DOWN,
ON THE TABLE...



GO AHEAD!
PICK!

OKAY! I'LL
PICK...ER...

LOU FINGERED THE FACE DOWN
CARDS, RUNNING THROUGH THEM!
THEN... HE SPUN ONE OVER...



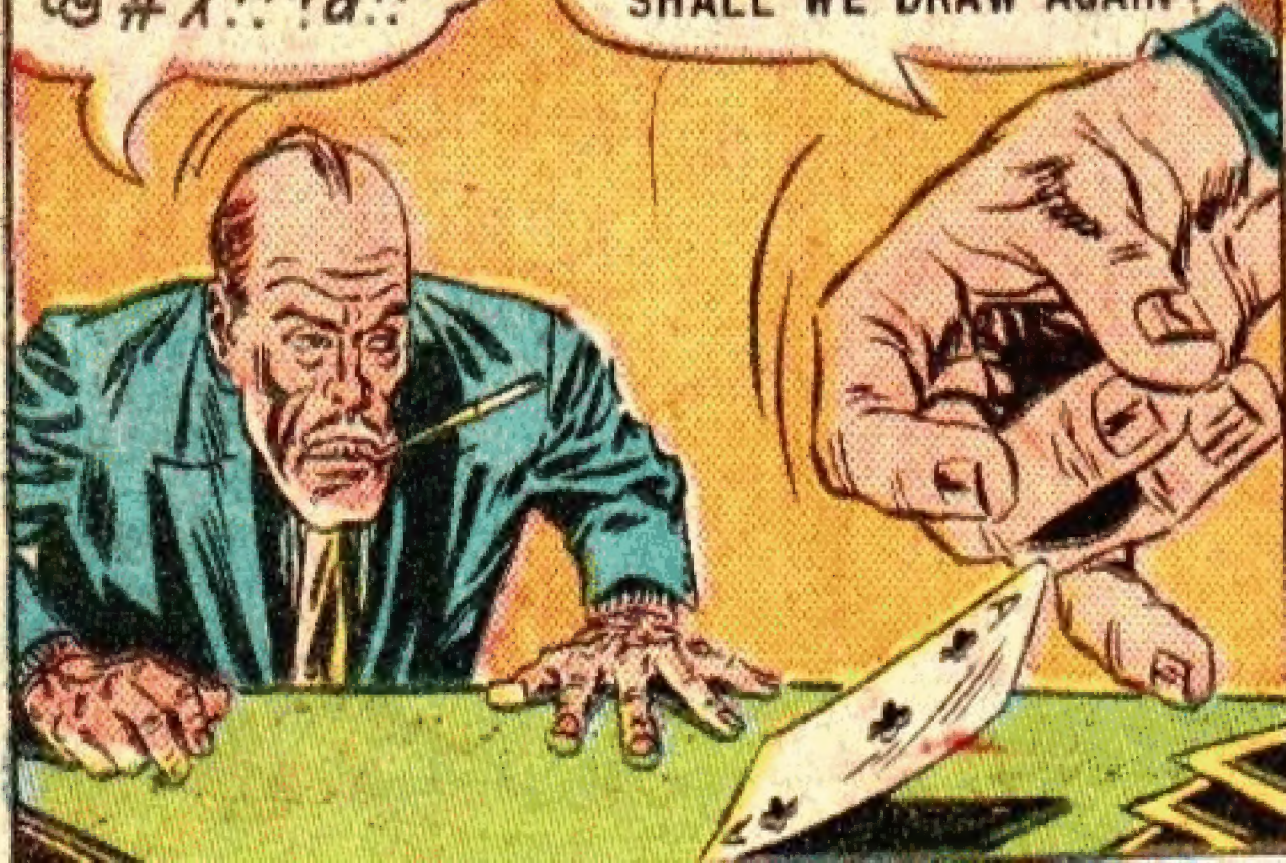
ACE! TOO
BAD, GUS!

WAIT A MINUTE!
I STILL DRAW!
THERE ARE **THREE**
ACES LEFT IN THAT
DECK!

GUS STARED DOWN AT THE CARDS FANNED OUT BEFORE HIM! THE ODDS WERE SIXTEEN TO ONE AGAINST HIS PICKING ONE OF THE THREE REMAINING ACES! HE SPUN A CARD OVER...

WHY, YOU *LUCKY*
@ # X!! ? &!!

HEH, HEH! *ACE*, LOU!
SHALL WE DRAW AGAIN?



NO! I GOT A *SIMPLER*
METHOD! GET YOUR
REVOLVER! I *CHALLENGE* YOU TO A
GAME OF *RUSSIAN*
ROULETTE!

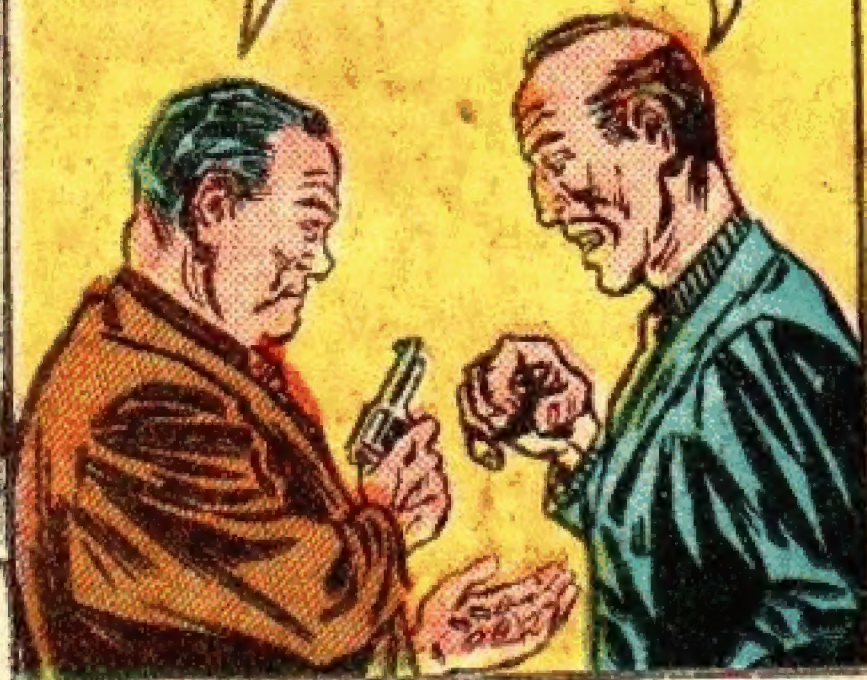
OKAY, LOU!
YOU'RE *ON...*



GUS TOOK HIS REVOLVER FROM THE DRAWER AND REMOVED ALL BUT ONE BULLET FROM ITS SIX CHAMBERS...

WE GO IN *SEQUENCE*... *ALTERNATING!* I'LL GO *FIRST!*

OKAY WITH ME, GUS! I'LL SPIN THE *CHAMBER!*



LOU TOOK THE SIX-SHOT REVOLVER AND TWIRLED THE CHAMBER...

THERE! SHE'S STOPPED *SPINNING!* NOW REMEMBER! ONE AFTER THE OTHER... TILL SHE GOES OFF!

RIGHT? GIVE IT TO ME...



GUS TOOK THE REVOLVER! HE LIFTED THE BARREL TO HIS TEMPLE! THE ODDS WERE FIVE TO ONE...



CLICK!



GUS HANDED THE GUN
TO LOU! LOU PLACED
THE MUZZLE AGAINST
HIS HEAD! ODDS NOW...
FOUR TO ONE...



GUS TOOK THE GUN!
BEADS OF PERSPIRATION
BEGAN TO POP OUT ON
THE TWO GAMBLERS'
FACES! GUS POINTED
THE REVOLVER! ODDS...
THREE TO ONE...





LOU TOOK THE GUN! THERE WERE
THREE SHOTS LEFT NOW!
ONE OF THEM HAD THAT BULLET!
ODDS... TWO TO ONE...



LOU SIGHED IN RELIEF AND MOPPED HIS BROW! GUS'S HAND SHOOK A LITTLE AS HE RAISED THE GUN! HE HESITATED! IT WAS EVEN MONEY, NOW! HIS FINGER TWITCHED... THEN CLOSED...



GUS GRINNED! LOU STARED AT THE GUN! THE ODDS HAD RUN OUT! THE BULLET WAS LEFT! GUS HANDED THE WEAPON OVER...

HEH, HEH!
TOO BAD, LOU!

GHOKE!



LOU LIFTED THE GUN AND STEELED HIMSELF FOR THE DEATH BLOW AS THE BULLET CAME CRASHING INTO HIS BRAIN! HE SQUEEZED THE TRIGGER...

CLUNK!



WHAT?
IT... IT
DIDN'T GO
OFF!

A... A DUD! WHY, YOU DIRTY C#!!X?
YOU KNEW IT ALL THE TIME! THAT'S
WHY YOU WANTED TO GO FIRST! YOU
THOUGHT I'D CRAWL...



DON'T BE AN
IDIOT, LOU! YOU
TWIRLED THE
CHAMBER!
HOW DID I
KNOW IT
WOULD COME
UP LAST?

YOU CAN'T TALK
YOUR WAY OUT OF
THIS ONE, GUS!
NO MATTER WHEN
IT CAME UP, YOU
HAD A SURE
THING!



ARE YOU ACCUSING
ME... GUS FORNEY,
OF CHEATING?

YOU CAN
HEAR! LUCKY
I'M AN
HONEST
GAMBLER OR I'D
NEVER HAVE FOUND
OUT! BUT I NEVER
WELSH WHEN I
LOSE!



OKAY, GREBIS! IF YOU'RE
SUCH A BIG-SHOT
GAMBLER... THEN
YOU'LL ACCEPT MY
CHALLENGE!

YOU JUST
NAME
IT!



NOBODY CALLS BUS FORNEY A
CHEAT! GREBIS...I CHALLENGE
YOU TO A GAME OF
CHOP-POKER!

OKAY, YOU
GRUM! YOU'RE
ON!

**TO A
FINISH!**

**TO A FINISH!
CALL YOUR DOCTOR!
I'LL GET MINE!**

THEN, FIENDS, BEGAN THE MOST HORRIBLE CARD GAME IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN GAMBLING! YOU'VE HEARD OF STRIP POKER? WELL, CHOP POKER IS ALMOST LIKE THAT! ONLY INSTEAD OF LOSING AN ARTICLE OF CLOTHING ... YOU LOSE A LIMB! CHOP POKER HAD BEEN PLAYED BEFORE... IT WAS TOLD... BUT ONLY ONE HAND AT A TIME! NEVER... TO A FINISH!



THEY SAT AT THE GREEN FELT-COVERED TABLE BENEATH THE GLARING LAMP! THE MEAT CLEAVER SPARKLED BETWEEN THEM! GUS DEALT THE CARDS...

I'LL TAKE TWO!

I'LL TAKE THREE!



I GOT THREE TENS, LOU!

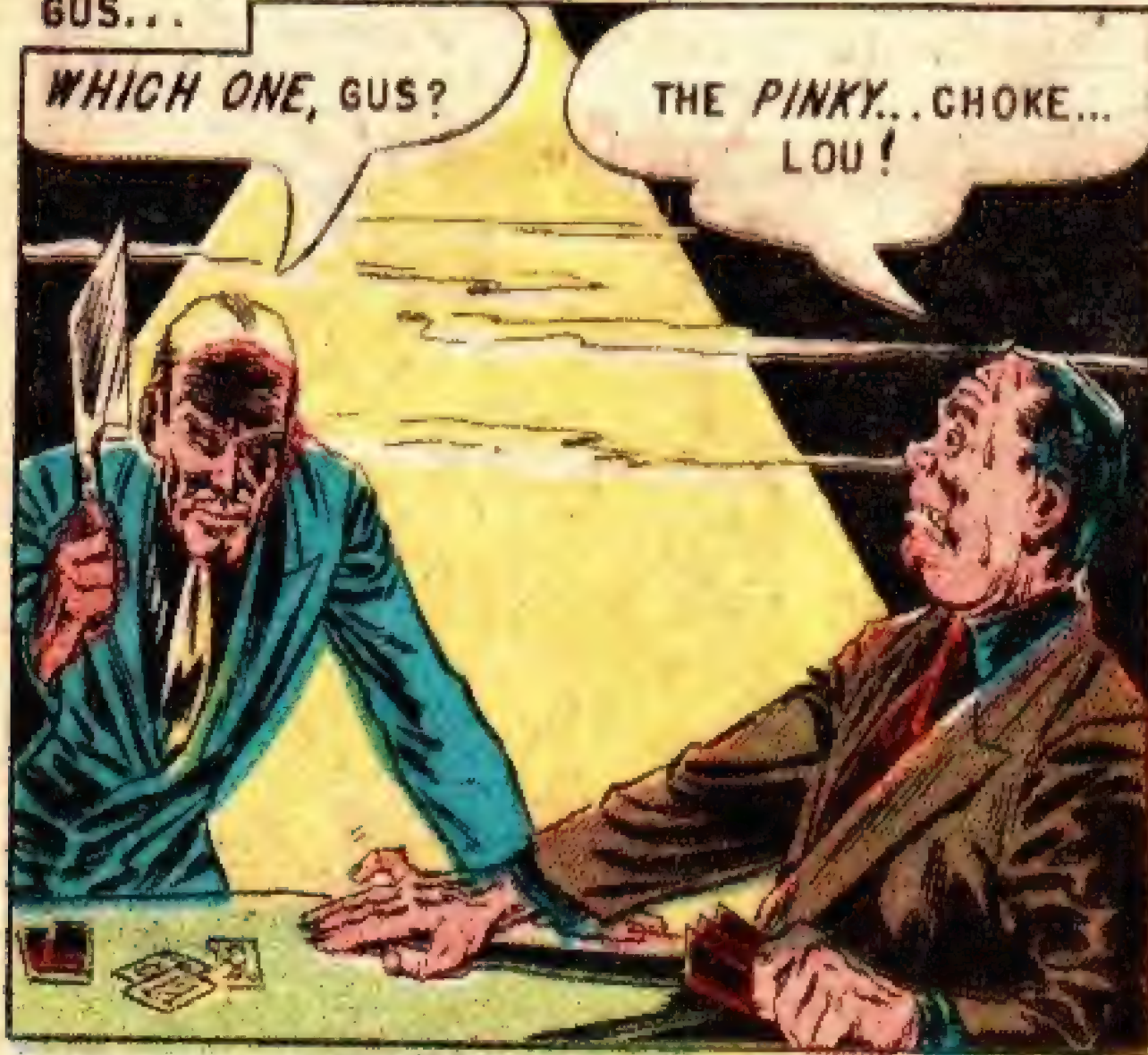
SORRY, GUS! THREE LADIES!



LOU PICKED UP THE CLEAVER AND STOOD OVER GUS...

WHICH ONE, GUS?

THE *PINKY*... CHOKE...
LOU!



GUS STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND! HIS PERSONAL DOCTOR MOVED FORWARD INTO THE LIGHT! LOU RAISED THE CLEAVER AND BROUGHT IT DOWN...



IT WAS LIKE A FIENDISH DUEL! THE DOCTORS WERE THE SECONDS! TIME WAS TAKEN OUT WHILE GUS'S SECOND SERVICED HIM! THE BANDAGE WAS BLOTCHED RED WHEN THEY BEGAN AGAIN...

YOUR DEAL, LOU!

GUT!

LOU DEALT THE CARDS! THEY DISCARDED... THEN...

I GOT *TWO PAIR*,
GUS... *KING'S AND
SIXES!*

MY GAME, LOU!
THREE FOURS!

GUS PICKED UP THE GLEAVER IN HIS GOOD HAND!
LOU'S SECOND MOVED INTO THE LAMPLIGHT...

WHICH ONE, LOU?

THE...THE
PINKY...GUS!



LOU STRETCHED OUT HIS LEFT HAND! GUS TOOK
GAREFUL AIM...

UUUUNNGHHH!



AGAIN TIME WAS TAKEN OUT WHILE LOU'S SECOND SERVICED HIM! SOON, THE CARDS WERE SHUFFLED ONCE MORE...

LET'S GO, GUS!
YOU DEAL!

CUT, 'IM,
LOU!



HEH, HEH! YEP, KIDDIES! THAT'S HOW THE GAME WAS PLAYED! IT CONTINUED *ON* LIKE THAT... *FAR INTO THE NIGHT!* AS EACH HAND WAS PLAYED AND WON...

OOOOOWWWW!



BUT LOU AND GUS NEVER DID
PLAY CHOP POKER TO A
FINISH. OH, YES! THEY PLAYED
ALL NIGHT AND INTO THE NEXT
DAY! BUT THEY HAD TO QUIT
TOWARDS EVENING! SEEMS THAT
NEITHER OF THEM COULD
DEAL THE CARDS!



WHAT? YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? WELL, LET'S LOOK IN ON THIS
HOSPITAL ROOM! LOU AND GUS ARE IN THERE...STILL GAMBLING...

